

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TORONT 00586 120546Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03
NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 /069 W
-----120548Z 007532 /21

R 092127Z MAR 77
FM AMCONSUL TORONTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5121
INFO AMEMBASSY OTTAWA
AMCONSUL MONTREAL
AMCONSUL QUEBEC

UNCLAS TORONTO 0586

E.O. 11652: NA
TAGS: PGOV, CA
SUBJECT: BRYCE MACKASEY COMMENTS ON LEVESQUE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY SPEECH

1. BRYCE MACKASEY WAS INTERVIEWED BY PHONE FROM QUEBEC CITY DURING MARCH 9. NOON NEWS PROGRAM TORONTO STATION CKFM. SUBJECT WAS PREMIER LEVESQUES MARCH 8 OPENING SPEECH TO QUEBEC NATIONAL ASSEMBLY DESCRIBED BY MACKASEY AS REPRESENTING THE PLANS OF A GOVERNMENT AWARE OF FINANCIAL LIMITATIONS. HE SAID THE SPEECH CATERED TO MODERATE ELEMENTS AND WONDERED HOW LONG THE PQ COULD GET AWAY WITH THIS TACTIC.

2. MACKASAY SAID THE PQ HAS BEEN BACKING AWAY FROM ITS HARD STAND FOR WEEKS NOW AND THE USE OF THE WORD "INDEPENDENCE" INSTEAD OF "SEPARATISM" REPRESENTS THIS. HE URGED THE MEDIA IN ENGLISH CANADA NOT TO FALL FOR THE CHANGE IN TERMS AS HE SAID THAT CURRENT ESTIMATES IN THE PROBABLE RESULTS OF A REFERENDUM SHOW 30 PERCENT IN FAVOR OF "INDEPENDENCE" WHILE ONLY 20 PERCENT SUPPORT "SEPARATISM". MACKASEY SUGGESTED PQ MIGHT DIVIDE REFERENDUM BALLOT AS A SERIES OF QUESTIONS ALONG THE LINES "DO YOU FAVOR CULTURAL INDEPENDENCE?", ETC., TO NOT ONLY IMPROVE OVERALL APPEAL BUT TO GIVE PQ BETTER CHANCE, AT WORST, OF
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HAVING AREAS WHERE ELECTORATE SUPPORT SPECIFIC FORMS OF INDEPENDENCE IF NOT TOTAL CONCEPT.

3. MACKASEY WAS PRESENTED AS STRONG FEDERALIST WHO LEFT FEDERAL POLITICS BECAUSE OF HIS FEARS FOR QUEBEC AND CANADA. WHEN ASKED IF FEDERAL GOVERNMENT COULD NOT HAVE DONE MORE, HE REPLIED IF IT HAD NOT BEEN FOR FEDERAL POLICIES

OF LAST TEN YEARS AND FOR DETERMINED EFFORTS BY PEARSON
AND TRUDEAU TO INJECT QUEBECKERS INTO SENIOR FEDERAL CIVIL
SERVICE, QUEBEC WOULD HAVE ALREADY SEPARATED.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: GOVERNMENT BUDGET, FINANCE, INDEPENDENCE, PERSONAL OPINION, SECESSION, PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT, PRESS CONFERENCES, FORM OF GOVERNMENT
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 09-Mar-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
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Expiration:
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Format: TEL
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Review Release Date: n/a
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